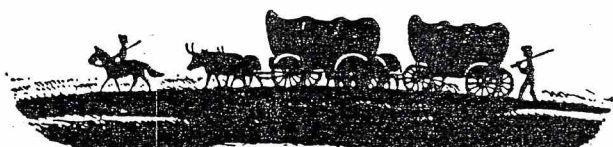
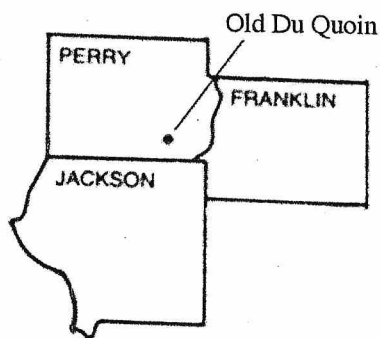


Early Settlers of the Old DuQuoin Area



\$2.00

Early Settlers
of the
Old DuQuoin
Area

april 3, 1966

compliments of
Mamie Reheis

Sept. 10, '56

P R E F A C E

This little history of our first white settlers in the Old DuQuoin area was gleaned by Mamie Reheis from descendants of the pioneer families. Mamie, herself a resident of the DuQuoin locality for 60 years, started to school at DuQuoin at the age of five years. At the time her parents lived in a large southern type house near DuQuoin. The site is now within the beautiful DuQuoin Fairgrounds. The present Reheis home is 10 miles southeast of DuQuoin along the path of the old Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Road.

Published May, 1956

GENEOLOGY AND REMINISCENCE

of

PIONEER DAYS

... of the northeast part of Elk Township, Jackson County, Illinois and adjoining corners of Perry and Franklin Counties.

In the northeast part of Elk Township, Jackson County lies a deeply wooded territory, still bearing the signs of the wilderness as it was at the time of the Indians and the early settlers of this beloved little corner of Egypt.

Going back to the seventeenth century, we will follow a little band of Scots, who were our earliest white settlers in this locality. This story was related to me by David Lee Campbell whose great-grandfather was chief of a Scottish clan during the time of the Rebellion between the Catholics and the Protestants in Scotland. The Pope of Rome sent soldiers to drive out the Protestants in Scotland and overthrow the government.

A band of 250 Scots, composed of Campbells, Hoges and their relatives and friends, fearing the brutality of the warfare of that time, fled to Ireland, in the dark of the night, and thence set sail for the shores of the U. S. A.

They arrived in Philadelphia on the fourth day of July, 1776. Adventure was in their hearts and they decided to journey westward to St. Louis, which was only a small trading post at that time.

A few Scots stayed in Pennsylvania and settled where ere destiny guided them. Thompson Moore and his family—very dear friends of the Campbells—could not take the long trip west, due to the ill health of Mrs. Moore. They drifted into Tennessee and established a home for themselves in those hills.

The other Scottish families traveled on toward St. Louis. They traded with friendly Indians and bought ponies and cattle along the way.

After many months the weary Scots reached St. Louis. They became acquainted with French fur traders, who told them of a land abounding in all the Scots wished for. A home all for themselves, a little Scotland in America. One night they gathered in an open field, 'neath the moon and stars, and decided to take the trail through wilderness to the haven described by the fur traders.

The next morning at day break there was turmoil everywhere. They prepared to leave for the promised land. Ere long all were on their way to their future home. Once more across the Mississippi River, into Illinois, they followed the Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Indian Trail to the southeast. After a long time spent in traveling, camping, hunting and pasturing their stock along the way, and with the guidance of fur traders whom they encountered from time to time, they came to a deeply wooded land, intermingled with fields of prairie. Whether some of these fields had been cleared by the Indians or were natural prairie, no one knows. They were in what is now Section 2, Jackson County, where the trail led them across Little Muddy River. About two miles east of there, along the trail, in the extreme northeast part of Elk Township about one mile east of Old DuQuoin they came to a beautiful lake extending over more than 60 acres. It was now the beginning of summer, the skies were blue, the leaves of the towering trees glistened in the bright sunshine. Among the waters of the lake were groups of water lilies lifting their petals of pink and gold.

It was an inviting welcome, and impressed with the beautiful scenery these good people decided to linger and build homes for themselves.

Deer and wild turkeys abounded, fur-bearing animals were plentiful and fishing was good.

Cabins were built and the curling smoke from the

chimneys of the little log cabins added beauty to the surroundings. The aroma of the wood-burning fires was invigorating. The cattle and ponies found plenty of grazing in the little paradise, and contentment and neighborliness brought happiness once more to the new inhabitants.

One of these cabins, just as simple as the rest sheltered John Campbell and his family. (John Campbell, leader and guide, brought the first white settlers to this locality.) Here his son, George Washington Campbell, was born in 1808. Young Washington was a bright boy, and at an early age, helped his father in trapping and farming. They had corn and beans for winter use, and furs were bartered for clothing.

In about 1820 a stranger appeared at the Campbell-Hoge settlement. He was shown a glad welcome and a happy day it was for the Scots. The stranger was the son of Thompson Moore, the friend they had left behind when they left Pennsylvania.

The Moore family had come to Illinois and settled near what is now known as Ewing in Franklin County. After a lengthy visit with the Campbells, young Moore departed and all agreed to renew their former friendship. Two years went by—there was no mail service—and the distance to the Moore home was a long way to go by horseback riding.

One day Washington Campbell and a few of his friends decided to visit the Moores. They rounded up their ponies. Washington had his favorite stride, a "gold dollar yellow" pony. They started early in the morning. Washington told his father he'd be back late, but promised to run the traps early the next morning.

It was mid-afternoon when they reached the cabin of the Moores. After a round of greetings and visiting, the boys did ample justice to Mrs. Moore's hoe cake and rabbit stew.

Young Washington found the Moores very interesting, especially so their young daughter, Phronie, a little girl

of 16, hazel blue eyes, dimpled cheeks and raven hair. The stalwart, blue-eyed, frauzy-headed Washington towered far above her petite form. He had found the girl of his dreams. Night came and the boys had to leave for their home at Campbell's lake. Washington told Phronie he'd call again some time.

When at home he told his mother all about Phronie and the friendly Moores. He did visit Phronie Moore again but at the great distance he could not see her but a few times a year. Nevertheless, he had fallen in love and life seemed more beautiful since he had someone to adore and dream of in his idle moments.

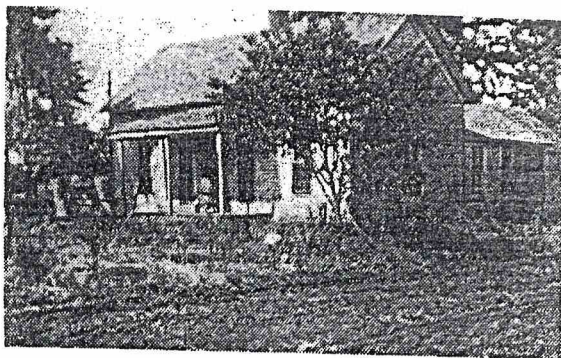
One Saturday morning in June he went to call on Phronie. When he arrived at her home, her parents and family were ready to depart on their long journey by covered wagons back to their former home in Tennessee.

Washington's heart collapsed. Would he never see Phronie again? It could not be so. He had a word with his sweetheart and her "ma and pa." Then he followed the caravan to what is now known as West Frankfort. There was a halt. He located a Justice of the Peace. Washington and Phronie were married, on the present Main street of West Frankfort, then called Frank's Fort, beside the waiting wagon of the dusty road. After the ceremony, Phronie bid her parents and family good-bye and rode pillion behind her lover, on the back of the little yellow pony, to the Campbell settlement at the lake. All the belongings she had were carried, tied in a little red handkerchief.

Washington built a cabin of their own the next day, close to his father's, and before long by the thrift of the Scots, he was buying land here and there. Land was being sold at Shawneetown at \$1.00 per acre. This came to pass in 1818 when Illinois was admitted to the Union. The signature of the president of the United States was on deeds to the land that was bought at Shawneetown.

Some land was granted to early settlers under home-

steads' rights. Washington was at one time owner of 15,000 acres of land. He owned part of section 34, Township 6, range 1, Perry County in 1834. This is the location of Campbell Creek graveyard. George Washington Campbell passed away at the homestead in 1876 and was buried in Deny Township near Orient in Franklin County. Washington had several children. To his son, James I. Campbell, he bequeathed the homestead located in Section 6, Township 7, Franklin County.

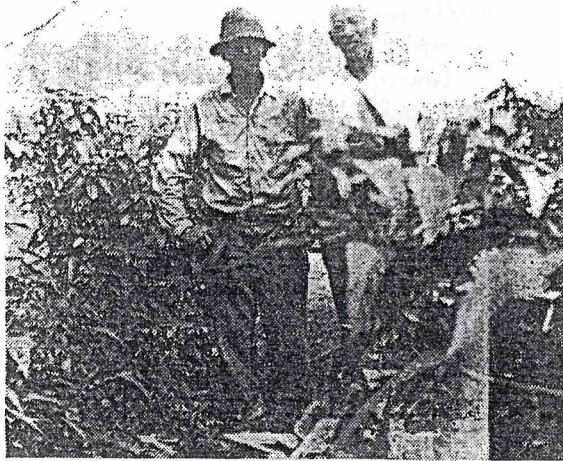


Campbell homestead in Franklin County.

James I. Campbell's son, David Lee Campbell, the narrator of this story was born at the homestead in 1877. Lee as a boy was greatly interested, when the oldsters would sit by the glow of the hearth fire and relate the stories of the life of their ancestors, which were told from one generation to another.

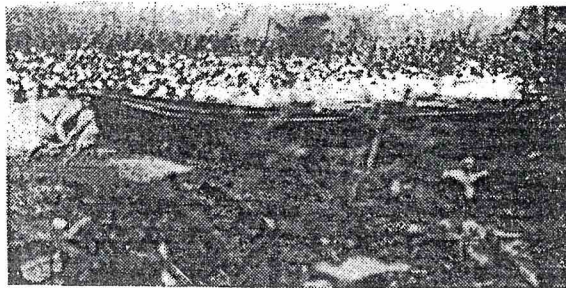
This furnished many an evening's entertainment, after the evening meal was over, and the kettles had been removed from the hearth, a new log rolled onto the fire, and the family peacefully settled to enjoy the fireside. Lee recorded all he heard, in his memory, as he told it today.

Lee Campbell married Laura Snider of Six Mile Township, Franklin County. They resided at the old Campbell homestead. In 1934 they celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Campbell domain at this location.



Mr. Frank Long and Mr. Jack Cross of DuQuoin, at Campbell Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell retired to Royalton, Illinois in 1938, due to the ill health of Mrs. Campbell. They still visit the farm several times a week to see that things are kept intact.



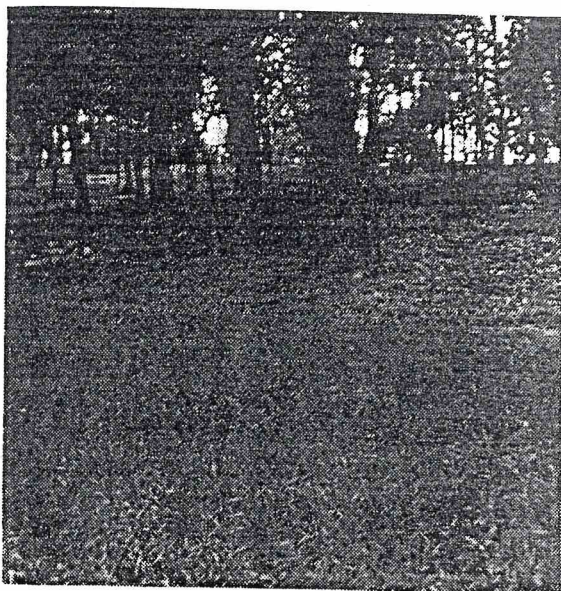
Waterlilies at Campbell Lake.

Campbell's lake now has several landlords. On the surroundings are hunters' cabins. There is a daily pilgrimage

to the lake, when it is hunting time for the waterfowl, and when summer breezes blow the fishermen seek this retreat.

Within the past 30 years, reeds and bushes have grown in the once open waters of the lake. Mallards find it ideal to feed among the reeds.

Having been at the lake last autumn with friends—Campbell lake vied with Horseshoe lake and Craborchard in the abundance of Mallards. Some one stuck a fishing



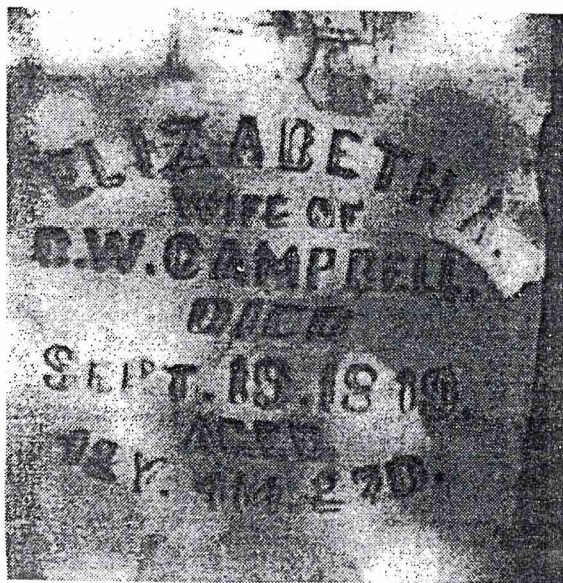
Scene of Campbell Creek graveyard on knoll at Will Mann farm in Perry County.

rod to the bottom of a boat which lay at the banks of the lake. The sky was darkened by the thousands of waterfowl which arose from the waters.

Near the Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Trail in Section 34, Township 6, Range 1, Perry County, near where Jackson and Perry Counties join, is an old cemetery, located on what was known as the old John Mann farm, now owned

by Will Mann heirs of DuQuoin. This is the Campbell Creek graveyard, the first burial place for the Campbells. John Campbell, father of George Washington Campbell, and David Lee Campbell's great-grandfather who came from Scotland, is buried there.

So we have the once Scottish chieftain sleeping 'neath the sod and wild daisies right here in our Egypt of south-



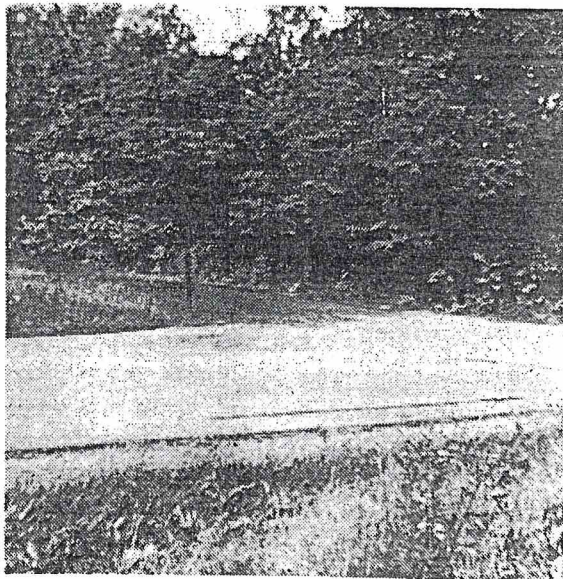
Tombstone left intact at Campbell Creek graveyard in Perry County.

ern Illinois. John Campbell died about 1822 of typhoid fever.

At Old DuQuoin in Perry County along the Kaskaskia road, we have the site of the old Presbyterian Seminary, our first edifice of higher learning in southern Illinois. The corner stone was laid June 13, 1885 for a female seminary sponsored by the Boston Ladies Society for the promotion of Christian education.

Their representative, Miss Eliza Paine of Hadley, Mas-

sachusetts, came to lay plans for the erection of the seminary. As there were no railroads in southern Illinois at that time, she and Miss E. Reynolds came down the Mississippi River from St. Louis to Kaskaskia and then by way of stage along the Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Road to Old DuQuoin. After many obstacles, the school was completed. It was used as a school until 1890. In 1900 it was



Scene of location of Presbyterian Seminary at Old DuQuoin.

sold to George Blakeslee who sold it to the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society. Finally abandoned, it was destroyed by fire.

John Campbell, an octogenarian living in Old DuQuoin now, nephew of George Washington Campbell, was present when they removed and opened the corner stone from the remains of the building. The real estate now belongs to the Harry Miller Estate. To the site on the hill, covered with a growth of forest trees, intermingled with a few elms and giant cedars, still cling the memories of high

ideals implanted there and the aspirations of our ancestry.

We are going a little farther along the old trail.

The Hoge family had intermarried with the Campbells in Scotland. They also located near Campbell lake at a little field of Prairie in section 12. This is now owned by John Levan of Royalton, but still bears the name "The Hoge field."

Another Hoge family homestead on the "Shenandoah field" in section 12, so named by returning Civil War veterans due to its similarity to a battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley, where they had been stationed. It is a field of prairie, about 60 acres, surrounded by forest. This field was the last battle ground of the Kaskaskia and Shawnee Indians, where the Kaskaskias retreated across Little Muddy River. Many arrows and Indian stones have been gathered on this field. In 1876 this land was bought by James and Mary Snider.

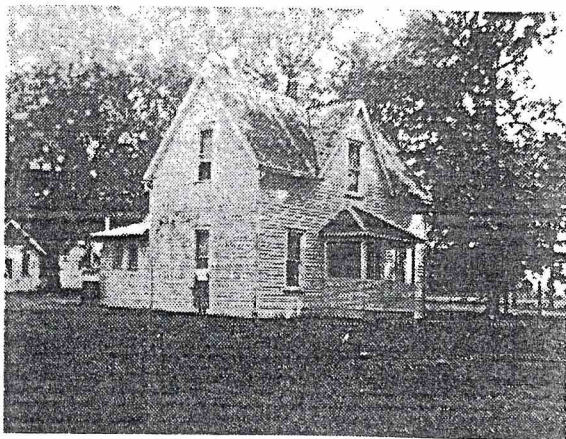
Horse racing became a sport for the younger generation. The field became a race track, used to train horses and hold running races. Mr. Snider's sons were racehorse men of note in their day.

In 1893 this tract of land was purchased by Jacob Reheis of near Waterloo, Illinois. The Reheis family was of French decent. His parents were among the immigrants who landed at New Orleans in 1849. They came up the Mississippi River by boat to St. Louis and settled west of St. Louis on the banks of the Merrimac River, where Jacob was born in 1862, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Eiklemann) Reheis. Later the Reheis families located near Waterloo, Illinois where Jacob married the daughter of George and Mary (Rueling) Kuhn of Buffalo, New York, at Prairie DuLong, St. Clair County in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Reheis followed the Kaskaskia Trail to Jackson County. Their home in section 12, Elk Township, is still occupied by the Reheis family.

A little farther south along the trail in section 13, we find the Humphrey's homestead. The Humphreys, being

of Welch descent, were the fifth white family to locate in this region. The Humphreys are among the earliest English Americans of the U. S. A., having located in Virginia prior to the Revolutionary War.

Charles Churchhill Humphrey's father and his twelve brothers fought in the Revolutionary War, under George Washington. Charles was born in Philadelphia in 1776. Having lost his father at an early age, his step-father, a mariner, would take Charles and his younger brother,



Jacob Reheis Home along Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Road in Section 12, Jackson County.

with him on long sea voyages. He educated the boys to the best of his ability.

Early in 1800 Charles came to southern Illinois. He bought 40 acres of land in Franklin County, one mile north of Osage along the trail. Having learned seafaring in his boyhood, he operated a ferry on Big Muddy River, then a navigable stream.

Indians were a menace to these early settlers and they were prepared to defend themselves or flee at all times. The Shawnee Indians were a hostile tribe, while the Kaskaskias befrended the white settlers. The two Indian

tribes were at war continuously and there were many skinwishers in this region.

Humphrey and his family often left their home when Indians became too hostile. They would take to their ferry boat and leave for Fort Kaskaskia until the Indian warfare subsided. When all was serene, they would return to their home in Franklin County.

Later Charles Churchhill Humphreys operated a ferry to transport vehicles of traffic, which came along the Kaskaskia Road, across Big Muddy River, at a point east of Royalton. The ferry was operated on a toll basis.

Humphreys was the first school teacher in this area. It was subscription teaching. The various families paid a fee for each child which furnished compensation for the teacher.

Edward Humphreys, son of Charles Humphreys, was born in 1802. Edward was one of the leading scholars in his father's school. He grew up as a worthy young man for the little community.

As of now, so it was then. There were times of social gatherings, dinners and house parties among the friends and relatives.

On one such occasion, Edward met little Elizabeth Harrison of near our present Christopher. She was slight of build, young and pretty. Ed's parents loved her, too.

One day in early autumn Edward Humphreys and Elizabeth were married. Edward bought 40 acres of land from the government in section 14, Elk Township, Jackson County. Here he built a home. Later he located in Section 13, along the Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Trail. This location has been the home of the Humphreys for several generations. Death claimed Edward in his youth, leaving Mrs. Humphreys with small children.

She kept the home and family bravely as only a real mother could do. Years rolled by and her baby son, Thomas, grew up. He was kind and helpful to his mother.

He was fond of hunting and killed many deer, which roamed the woodland and prairies.

He was married to Nancy M. Mitchel of near Christopher. They resided with Thomas's mother until she passed away at the age of 93. One son of Thomas Humphreys, O. G. Humphreys, and family still live at the Humphreys homestead.

One mile north of Osage where Charles Churchhill Humphreys located in 1800 is the Adkins Humphreys



Charles Churchill Humphrey's tombstone at Humphrey's Cemetery north of Osage in Franklin County.

graveyard. Burial places were chosen close to the homes in pioneer days, so the graves could be guarded against wolves, lest they might disturb the resting places of dear ones. The first grave at this cemetery was that of Charles Humphreys' little granddaughter. His oldest daughter had married Parker Adkins, a son of another pioneer family.

An influx of people of German nationality began in

1867. One of the first of these were the three Mann brothers of Monroe County, Illinois, John, George and Henry Mann. Their grandfather came to St. Louis from Germany in 1812.

The Manns bought one-half of Section 34, Township 6, Perry County, in 1867. Part of it is still in possession of the Mann descendants.

As time went on more and more settlers arrived and liked the country's corners. Those already here scattered in various directions. It was a home for the adventurous ones. Here little money brought more land. Cattle, horses and hogs could roam at will in the surrounding hundreds of acres of wild land. Each settler had a mark for his cattle and hogs and a brand for his ponies.

These are some of the marks used: Two splits in the right ear; split in each ear; under bit and a crop in the right; under bit and a crop in the left, etc.

It was an easy life—just round up the stock in the fall—mark those not marked, and pick out some dandy ones for meat. There was always plenty of corn for cornbread and plenty of sorghum and tree honey. There were deer, which could be seen at a great distance, as there were no weeds and little underbrush. The grazing of the horses and cattle kept fields and woodlands mowed to a similitude of our parks. Turkeys grew in the wilderness for Thanksgiving.

All this had to come to an end as the population increased. Stock law was invoked in about 1893 and enforced. Game became less plentiful and timber was cut and sold by sawmills.

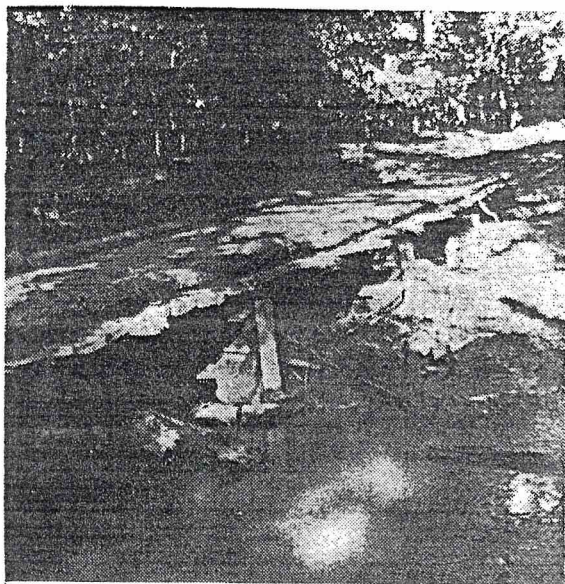
In about 1901 Joseph Leichter awakened the mining industry to a larger scale deep mining. Zeigler became a floundering town. More mines and more towns came into being. A new world had dawned upon the once peaceful haven of the pioneers.

This progress furnished markets for farm produce and employment for many. Everyone welcomed the mining

industry which brought prosperity to the part of Illinois we know as Egypt. Farming and stock raising is now promising a future for the region.

THE OLD TRAIL

I am told the Shawneetown-Kaskaskia Road is recorded at Springfield, Illinois as a State Road. It was a trail from Fort Kaskaskia to Shawneetown and the first road from St. Louis to the southeast. It followed in close



Ford replaces Kaskaskia bridge across Little Muddy in Section 2, Jackson County.

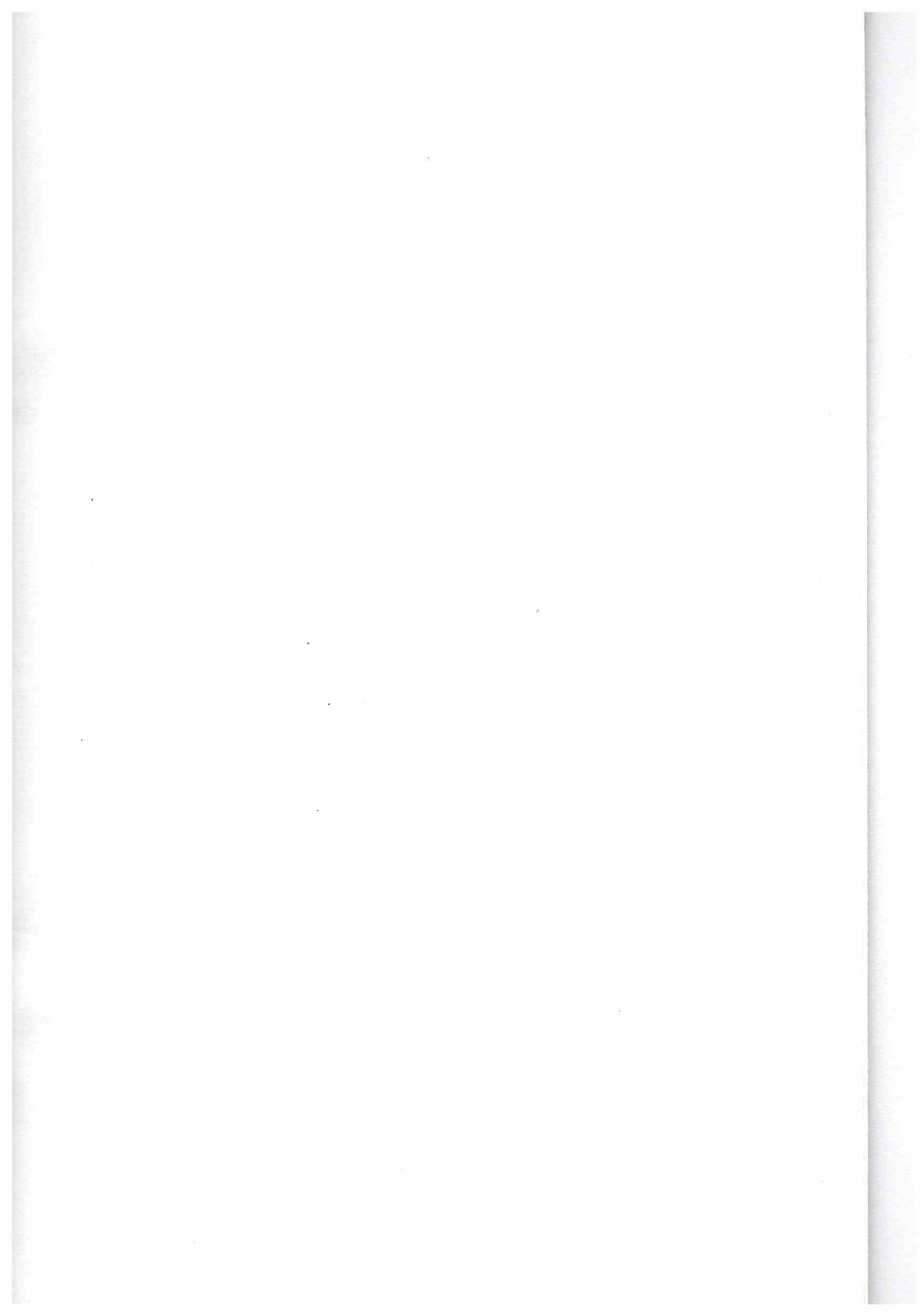
proximity to Route 13. At Old DuQuoin it turned south past the old Presbyterian Seminary. Crossing Little Muddy River in Section 2, Elk Township, Jackson County, the bridge there was the Kaskaskia bridge. It was sometimes called the Mann bridge in later years.

The Manns came from Monroe County in 1867 and settled in Township 6, Section 34 in Perry County.

From the Kaskaskia bridge the road extended in an easterly direction, through the woods about two miles, one prong circling Campbell lake on the south and past the Campbell homestead, another prong extending in a southerly direction past the Reheis place and the Humphreys homestead in Section 13, then through Royalton across Big Muddy River.

This part of the historic trail has been neglected since the Elkhville-Royalton road has been black-topped and the "Black Slop Bottom" road from Old DuQuoin to Mulkeytown has been concreted.

Perhaps sooner or later, when the public has learned to appreciate the hardships of those who first laid the foundation for the DuQuoin vicinity, this old road will be made an all-weather road or pleasure path and marked. The historic points of interest, as time made it into a long and winding thoroughfare from Fort Kaskaskia to Shawneetown, should be marked. First an Indian trail, then a French fur traders road, then the main highway to the southeast, the route has borne the foot prints of many men and women to whom we owe honor for their parts in life's progress toward the development, prosperity and comforts of today.



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